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A.—(a) No, but instructions have been issued that the orders of Government should be taken before renewing licences for such weapons.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. G. LAKSHMANA REDDI:—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member why Government insist upon orders being taken from them by the District Magistrates before renewing licences for automatic weapons?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Because automatic weapons can easily be concealed or stolen and Government want that proper attention should be paid before licence is granted."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member the difference between an automatic weapon and a revolver?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"From my point of view, an automatic weapon can be concealed or stolen more easily than a revolver."

Law and Order (General)

Arrests and conviction and discharge since June 1933 for offences of a political nature.

* 592 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what the number is of arrests of a political nature made in each month since June 1933 in each district; and

(b) how many have been convicted and how many have been let off?

A.—(a) The information is not available.

(b) A statement [a] showing the number of persons convicted of offences connected with the civil disobedience movement in each month since June 1933 in each district is placed on the table.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"In view of the fact that civil disobedience movement is not existing now, may I ask whether the hon. the Home Member will consider the advisability of releasing those people who have been sentenced but who are still in jail?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"I must ask for notice of that question."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Irrigation

Provision of a flood bank to the Korayar river in the Srivilliputtur taluk.

593 Q.—Mr. M. D. T. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the Council table the report received in answer to question No. 445 asked at the meeting of the Council on 10th November 1933?

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 371 infra.

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A.—The several clauses of question No. 445 are answered in the annexure.[a]

Labour

Economic enquiry concerning industrial workmen and artisans.

594 *Q.*—Rao Sahib Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government are contemplating an enquiry regarding the present economic condition of the industrial workmen and artisans in this Presidency including their family budgets?

A.—The Royal Commission on Labour recommended that enquiries into the family budgets of industrial workers should be undertaken in Madras. The recommendation is receiving the attention of Government.

Police

Observations of the Assistant Sessions Judge, Calicut, on the conduct of the Police officer concerned in the investigation of the case of defalcation in the Malabar District Educational Council.

595 *Q.*—Mr. P. MADHUSOODHANAN THANGAL: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the dismissal of the Malabar District Educational Council defalcation case on 20th November 1933 from the Court of the Assistant Sessions Judge of Calicut and the grave allegation made in the judgment against the conduct of the Police officer or officers responsible for the enquiry of the case; and

(*b*) in the light of the disclosures made in the judgment, whether the Government are intending to hold any enquiry or take any action in the matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Inspector-General of Police has been asked to report.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

II.—A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS IMPARTIBLE ESTATES ACT, 1904 (BILL No. 11 OF 1932).

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now proceed with the discussion on the motion that the Madras Impartible Estates Act Amendment Bill (Bill No. 11 of 1932) as reported on by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

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a Printed as Appendix II on page 372 infra.